

## COUNTRY DATA:INDIA: Information from the CIA World Factbook

### INTRODUCTION

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into northwestern India. Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated onto the Indian subcontinent about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. The Maurya Empire of the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. - which reached its zenith under ASHOKA - united much of South Asia. The Golden Age ushered in by the Gupta dynasty (4th to 6th centuries A.D.) saw a flowering of Indian science, art, and culture. Islam spread across the subcontinent over a period of 700 years. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor BABUR established the Mughal Dynasty which ruled India for more than three centuries. European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century. By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent. The British Indian Army played a vital role in both World Wars. Nonviolent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU, eventually brought about independence in 1947. Communal violence led to the subcontinent's bloody partition, which resulted in the creation of two separate states, India and Pakistan. The two countries have fought three wars since independence, the last of which in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 caused Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. In November 2008, terrorists allegedly originating from Pakistan conducted a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital. Despite pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread corruption, rapid economic development is fueling India's rise on the world stage.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan
<b>Area</b>	3,287,263 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north
<b>Natural Resources</b>	coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, rare earth elements, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	1,907.8 cu km (1999)

Freshwater Withdrawal	<b>total:</b> 645.84 cu km/yr (8%/5%/86%) <b>per capita:</b> 585 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	droughts; flash floods, as well as widespread and destructive flooding from monsoonal rains; severe thunderstorms; earthquakes <b>volcanism:</b> Barren Island (elev. 354 m, 1,161 ft) in the Andaman Sea has been active in recent years
Environmental Issues	deforestation; soil erosion; overgrazing; desertification; air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage and runoff of agricultural pesticides; tap water is not potable throughout the country; huge and growing population is overstraining natural resources
PEOPLE	
Population	1,173,108,018 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)
Religions	Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)
Languages	Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9% <b>note:</b> English enjoys the status of subsidiary official language but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; Hindi is the most widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the people; there are 14 other official languages: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language (2001 census)
Literacy Rate	61%
Major Infectious Diseases	<b>degree of risk:</b> high <b>food or waterborne diseases:</b> bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever <b>vectorborne diseases:</b> chikungunya, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, and malaria <b>animal contact disease:</b> rabies

	<p><b>water contact disease:</b> leptospirosis</p> <p><b>note:</b> highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)</p>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
Type	federal republic
Independence	15 August 1947 (from the UK)
Constitution	26 January 1950; amended many times
Legal System	based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; separate personal law codes apply to Christians, Hindus, and Muslims
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
Agricultural Products	rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, jute, tea, sugarcane, lentils, onions, potatoes; dairy products, sheep, goats, poultry; fish
Industries	textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software, pharmaceuticals
Import commodities	crude oil, precious stones, machinery, fertilizer, iron and steel, chemicals
Import Partners	China 10.94%, US 7.16%, Saudi Arabia 5.36%, UAE 5.18%, Australia 5.02%, Germany 4.86%, Singapore 4.02% (2009)
Export Commodities	petroleum products, precious stones, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, vehicles, apparel
Export Partners	UAE 12.87%, US 12.59%, China 5.59% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$3,200 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	25% (2007 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.